

Guest Speaker

## **THE CHALLENGES OF FISHERIES INFORMATION DISSEMINATION IN THE PACIFIC**

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For the last 65 years, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) has provided technical support on fisheries and aquaculture to its member countries (currently 22 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories), producing and disseminating numerous documents such as conference papers, technical reports, bulletins, manuals, posters, leaflets and videos, mostly in English and French but also in vernacular languages. While physical copies were distributed to fisheries departments along the years, they only reached an limited audience in the Pacific and most fisheries and SPC junior or new staff wouldn't be aware of the existence of legacy - but still relevant - documents or would be unable to access them. The digitization of the legacy paper documents conducted several years ago and the constant addition of electronic documents has allowed the creation of a digital library available from the SPC website and distributed on DVD. Yet we observed that the audience of the website was mostly outside the Pacific or the academic sector, and that the DVD edition, though praised by consultants, was actually poorly distributed within fisheries departments and hardly used. Computer servers recently installed for survey data entry make possible the opportunistic use of existing infrastructure for content distribution on the local network through an intranet web server and even allows the dissemination of videos and large print-quality documents. We show that the system can be extended to allow non-SPC documents to be posted and disseminated by fisheries officers themselves, with the extra challenges of copyright and fair use.



## **Session 1: Challenges: Pacific Library Cases**

*Moderator: Verenaissi Bavadra*

### **SPC LIBRARY AND ITS FAME DIGITAL LIBRARY**

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#### **Abstract:**

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) library system is a private corporate library that exists to enhance and service SPC's professional and technical staff, its projects and programs, and to provide information resources, including research, current awareness, acquisitions and information management to the SPC. The Library also seeks to promote and enhance information access and delivery to our member PICTs (Pacific Islands Countries and Territories). The staff consists of the Librarian and five library assistants. The current collection has regional and international publications in French, English, and to a limited extent some Pacific languages. Of the approximate 70,000 total holdings, one quarter is on marine science and fisheries, making it the largest subject area collection in the library, and of that, 300 items are FADs (Fish Aggregations Devices) related. SPC Library provides important services to assist the SPC staff in their work, including document delivery, bibliographical research, Interlibrary loans, book orders, and access to electronic journals. The SPC Library has been a member of the IAMSILIC network since 2006. The IAMSILIC Z39.50 is an invaluable resource for providing research support to SPC fisheries staff. The most collaborative work between the Library and Fisheries sections is the Fisheries Digital Library. The library catalogs all the meeting papers and reports related to fisheries, and these are then scanned, OCR'd, and made accessible using Greenstone. DVD versions were distributed throughout the PICTs, and it is also available online via <http://www.spc.int/DigitalLibrary/FAME>.

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